AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace paragraph beginning on page 7, line 14 with the following amended paragraph:

Fig. 1 is a partially cutaway plan view showing a disposable diaper 1 of open-type and Fig. 2 is a sectional view taken along a line II-II in Fig. 1. The diaper 1 basically comprises a liquid-pervious topsheet 2 defining a wearer-contactable surface adapted to contact with a wearer's body, a liquid-impervious backsheet 3 defining a garment-contactable surface adapted to contact with the wearer's clothes and a liquid-absorbent core 4 interposed between these sheets 2, 3. In Fig. 1, the backsheet 3 is illustrated to overlie the topsheet 2. The diaper 1 is contoured by front and rear end zones 11, 12 extending in parallel to each other in a waist-circumferential direction (transverse direction as viewed in Fig. 1) and a pair of side edge zones 13 extending in parallel to each other in a longitudinal direction which is orthogonal to the waist-circumferential direction. In this longitudinal direction, the diaper 1 is composed of a crotch region 8, a front waist region 6 extending between the crotch region 8 and the front end zone 11, and a rear waist region 7 extending between the crotch region 8 and the rear end zone 12. In the crotch region 8, the side edge zones 13 are curved inward. The top- and backsheets 2, 3 extend outward beyond a peripheral edge of the core 4. These portions extending beyond the peripheral edge of the core 4 are overlaid and attached together by means of a hot melt adhesive (not shown) so as to form a front flap 16, a rear flap 17 and side flaps 18. In the front flap 16 and the rear flap 17, waist elastic members 19 are interposed between the top- and backsheets 2, 3 and bonded in a stretched condition to the inner surface of the topsheet 2 and/or the backsheet 3. In the side flaps 18, leg elastic members 21 are interposed between the top- and backsheets 2, 3 along the curved side edge zones 13 in the crotch region 8 and bonded in a stretched condition to the inner surface of the topsheet 2 and/or the backsheet 3. In the rear waist region 7, the respective side flaps 18 have tape fasteners 30 attached to the backsheet 3 in the vicinity of the respective side edge zones 13. These tape fasteners 30 have their lengths extending respectively in the waist-surrounding direction and are folded in a Z- or inverted Z-shape so that the tape fasteners 30 can be unfolded outward beyond the side edge zones 13 of the diaper 1. The top- and backsheets 2, 3 respectively have front and rear end zones 2a, 2b, 3a, 3b defining the front and rear end zones 11, 12 of the diaper 1 and side edge zones 2c, 3c defining the side edge zones 13 of the diaper 1. The topsheet 2 is formed with a liquid pervious nonwoven fabric, or a liquid pervious perforated plastic film etc. The backsheet 3 is formed with a liquid impervious nonwoven fabric, or a liquid impervious plastic film, or a composite including a laminate of a liquid impervious plastic film and a nonwoven fabric etc.

Please replace paragraph beginning on page 16, line 21 with the following amended paragraph:

Fig. 7 is a view similar to Fig. 2 showing another preferred embodiment of the present invention. The top tape segment 31 of the tape fastener 30 is formed with a plastic film or a nonwoven fabric. The inner end zone 36 of the top tape segment 31 is coated with a fourth adhesive 140 and the inner end zone 46a of the intermediate tape segment 33 is coated with the third adhesive 49. Both of the inner end zones 36, 46a are permanently attached to each other. The inner surface m of the intermediate zone 38 of the top tape segment 31 is provided with a hook part 139 of a mechanical fastener comprising the hook part and a loop part. The hook part 139 has a base sheet 141 and plural hooks 142 extending vertically to the base sheet 141. The base sheet 141 is permanently attached to the inner surface m of the intermediate zone 38. The intermediate tape segment 33 is formed with a nonwoven fabric which has plural loops releasably engageable with the hooks 142. The bottom tape segment 32 is formed with a plastic film or a nonwoven fabric. The bottom tape segment 32 is permanently attached to the backsheet 3 with the first adhesive 44 and also permanently attached to the outer end zone 47 of the intermediate tape segment 33. The topsheet of the diaper 1 is formed with a nonwoven fabric 2a1 and the backsheet 3 is formed with a composite sheet of a plastic film 3a1 and a nonwoven fabric 3b1 laminated on the outer surface of the plastic film 3a1. These nonwoven fabrics 2a1 and 3b1 have respectively plural loops ~~engagemable~~ engageable with the hooks 142. When the outer end 37 of the top tape segment 31 is pulled in the direction indicated by the arrow P of Fig. 1, the tape fastener 30 is deformed as depicted in Fig. 3 and extended straight after the hooks 142 disengage from the loops of the intermediate tape segment 33. The hooks 142 of the tape fastener 30 extended in such a manner can be engaged as a fastening means with the loops provided on any specified parts of the nonwoven fabrics 2a1 and/or 3b1 . The diaper 1 having the tape fastener 30 as depicted in Fig. 7 may have the backsheet 3 formed with a plastic film which is provided with a target zone made of a nonwoven fabric engageable with the hooks 142.

Please replace paragraph beginning on page 14, line 12 with the following amended paragraph:

In the tape fastener 30, the attaching force of the second adhesive 39 and the third adhesive 49 can be adjusted in various manners so that the second adhesive 39 may be easily peeled off from the intermediate tape segment 33 and the third adhesive 49 may be easily peeled off from the bottom tape segment 32. Such an adjustment can be achieved, for example, by previously selecting the second adhesive 39 and the third adhesive 49 exhibiting the adhesive force lower than that exhibited by the first adhesive 44. It is also possible for such an adjustment to coat the outer surface n of these tape segments 32, 33 with an appropriate release agent (as illustrated, e.g., at 199 in FIG. 3) such as a silicone oil.